

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA ON EMBRACING DEMOCRACY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 516, Senate Resolution 276.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 276) congratulating the people of Mongolia on embracing democracy in Mongolia through their participation in the parliamentary elections held on June 30, 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 276) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 276

Whereas Mongolia conducted elections on June 30, 1996, for its unicameral national parliament, the Great Hural;

Whereas Mongolian voters cast their ballots in a peaceful and orderly fashion at 1590 polling places, choosing from among 351 candidates representing 11 different parties and coalitions;

Whereas the primary issues facing Mongolian voters were the scope and pace of continued democratization and economic liberalization;

Whereas the former Communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) suffered a dramatic and unexpected loss at the polls, and the Democratic Union Coalition won majority control of the Great Hural;

Whereas the Democratic Union Coalition espoused a policy of strengthening democratic institutions, implementing free market economic reforms, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary;

Whereas voter turnout exceeded 87 percent according to preliminary reports;

Whereas an international election observation team led by former Secretary of State James A. Baker traveled to nine different areas of Mongolia to observe pre-election day preparations and Mongolian citizens voting on election day; and

Whereas the United States election observers judged the election to be free, peaceful, and fair, with the results respected by all sides: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby congratulates the people of Mongolia for—

(1) overwhelmingly embracing democracy through their participation in the June 30, 1996, elections for the national parliament, the Great Hural;

(2) conducting free, fair, and credible elections;

(3) continuing to build on the progress of the past and moving further away from their previous dependence on a communist system; and

(4) serving as an example to the peoples of East Asia who seek further democratization of their countries.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that he further transmit such copy to the Government of Mongolia.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate action yesterday on S. 1972 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5203

(Purpose: To make a technical amendment)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a technical amendment, No. 5203, which is at the desk be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5203) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 2, line 13, insert "or near" after "on".

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleagues for voting to adopt S. 1972, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act. S. 1972 makes technical corrections to the Act to clarify and improve the provisions relating to older native Americans.

Mr. President, many older native Americans have benefited from programs authorized under the Older Americans Act. Indian tribes have provided much needed home-based care, meals and services to elderly tribal members living on Indian reservations and in nearby communities. In most cases, older native Americans live in remote and isolated communities with little or no access to a grocery store, telephone, health care and other important services. Through the Older Americans Act, nutrition and support services can be provided to older Native Americans in their homes and communities on a daily basis.

However, many of these services can be strengthened to ensure that Indian tribes are able to tailor nutritional and supportive programs to the cultural and geographic characteristics of their communities. Often, employment and nutrition programs are difficult to administer in Indian country because of the remoteness of the service area and the unique character of Indian cultures. The changes in S. 1972 will ensure that Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving native American elders will be afforded maximum flexibility in administering employment

and nutrition programs to ensure that they are appropriate to the unique characteristics of the Indian communities.

Mr. President, I have proposed a minor technical change to the bill as it was reported in the Committee on Indian Affairs. This amendment to section 2 of the bill is necessary to clarify that the proposed change to the definition of "reservation" will not alter any existing eligibility for Indians living near an Indian reservation.

Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation to Senators INOUE and STEVENS, who joined me in sponsoring this legislation and my colleagues in the Senate who voted to pass S. 1972. This act will bring us closer to meeting the goals of the Older Americans Act to ensure that older native Americans will continue to benefit from the services provided by the act.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1972), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed as follows:

S. 1972

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Older Americans Indian Technical Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. INDIAN EMPLOYMENT; DEFINITION OF INDIAN RESERVATION.

Section 502(b)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B)(i) will provide employment for eligible individuals in the community in which such individuals reside, or in nearby communities; or

"(ii) if such project is carried out by a tribal organization that enters into an agreement under subsection (b) or receives assistance from a State that enters into such an agreement, will provide employment for such individuals who are Indians residing on or near an Indian reservation, as the term is defined in section 2601(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501(2))."

SEC. 3. POPULATION STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT.

Section 614(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(b)) is amended by striking "certification" and inserting "approval".

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 614(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(c)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Assistant Secretary shall provide waivers and exemptions of the reporting requirements of subsection (a)(3) for applicants that serve Indian populations in geographically isolated areas, or applicants that serve small Indian populations, where the small scale of the project, the nature of the applicant, or other factors make the reporting requirements unreasonable under the circumstances. The Assistant Secretary shall consult with such applicants in establishing appropriate waivers and exemptions."

SEC. 5. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR NUTRITION SERVICES.

Section 614(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(c)), as amended by section 4, is further

amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) In determining whether an application complies with the requirements of subsection (a)(8), the Assistant Secretary shall provide maximum flexibility to an applicant who seeks to take into account subsistence needs, local customs, and other characteristics that are appropriate to the unique cultural, regional, and geographic needs of the Indian populations to be served.”.

SEC. 6. COORDINATION OF SERVICES.

Section 614(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(c)), as amended by section 5, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) In determining whether an application complies with the requirements of subsection (a)(12), the Assistant Secretary shall require only that an applicant provide an appropriate narrative description of the geographical area to be served and an assurance that procedures will be adopted to ensure against duplicate services being provided to the same recipients.”.

ELECTING GREGORY S. CASEY, OF IDAHO, AS THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 289.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 289) electing Gregory S. Casey, of Idaho, as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 289) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 289

Resolved, That Gregory S. Casey, of Idaho, be, and he is hereby, elected Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I do want to thank the minority leader for his cooperation in this appointment. There will be a swearing in for this position for Gregory Casey on Tuesday.

APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 47 (104th Congress), appoints the following Senators to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT]:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER]: and

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD].

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Monday, September 9, further that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate immediately turn to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3230, the Department of Defense authorization bill, as under the previous order that had been agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. On Monday, the Defense conference report will be considered under the unanimous consent agreement that limits debate to a total of 5 hours. I now ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 3:30 p.m. on Monday there be a period for morning business with Senator DASCHLE or his designee in control of the time from 3:30 to 4:30 and Senator COVERDELL or his designee in control of the time between 4:30 and 5:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I want to remind my colleagues, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday. The next rollcall vote will take place on Tuesday, September 10 at 2:15 p.m. Those votes will be first on the adoption of the DOD. authorization conference report which will have been debated during the day on Monday, followed by passage of the Defense Marriage Act, to be followed by 30 minutes of debate and passage for action on the employment nondiscrimination bill. Following those votes on Tuesday, the Senate will turn to consideration of the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill and those votes can be expected then or votes to occur on amendments and on that appropriations bill later in the day on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator GRAHAM of Florida and Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ALU/O'HARA AMENDMENT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I want to begin my statement by congratulating two heroes—heroes of south Florida and heroes of our Nation—officers Joseph Alu and James O'Hara, former members of the city of Plantation police department.

On October 3 of this year, these two men will be honored by the National Association of Police Organizations, when they receive the Top Cops Award—an honor given to a select group of officers who display exceptional courage and bravery in the face of danger.

Mr. President, we in Florida are quite proud to have citizens like Officers Alu and O'Hara living among us, not just for the courage they displayed while in the line of duty, but also for the courage and perseverance displayed after the tragic incident which occurred on July 24, 1995.

Mr. President, let me briefly recount the tragic events of July 24, 1995. While on duty, Officer Joseph Alu and Detective James O'Hara, were called to what turned out to be an emergency hostage situation. When the officers had arrived at the scene—they found that an assailant had cordoned himself off in a bedroom of a house and had taken two teenaged girls hostage.

The officers broke down the bedroom door, only to discover that the assailant had doused himself, the hostages, and the entire room in gasoline. At that moment, the assailant dropped a lighter on the floor, setting the room ablaze, killing himself and the two hostages.

Officers Alu and O'Hara were critically wounded—receiving severe burns over most of their bodies. Both officers remained in the hospital for the better part of a year fighting for their survival. Officer O'Hara was so badly burned that while he struggled for his life in the intensive care unit for over 6 months, his wife was told to expect and prepare for his imminent death.

Miraculously, Officer Alu and Officer O'Hara survived. But, while still in the hospital, the officers were notified that since they wouldn't be physically able to return to work they and their families would lose their health insurance benefits.

Imagine fighting for your life in a hospital, in excruciating pain, knowing that your family is going to be left unprotected. When these heroes returned home, that's exactly what they found: no job, disability payments of approximately \$1,200 a month, prohibitively expensive COBRA insurance which would run out in 18 months, and no private health insurance for them and their families.

For over 5 months, Officer Alu's wife, Sheila, stayed home to care for her husband during his rehabilitation, herself unable to work to bring in badly needed extra income. Further complicating their situation was their 5-year-old daughter, Christina, who was battling chronic asthma without health insurance.